

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Charlie Summers was born on August 21, 1935, to Charles and Ruba Summers at Hershey, Nebraska, where he and a brother and sister spent the early years of their lives; and,

Whereas, Charlie graduated from Hershey High School and the University of Nebraska after which time he entered the U.S. Air Force and became a fighter pilot; and,

Whereas, Charlie served three tours of duty in Vietnam, flew 103 missions, received the Purple Heart for injuries incurred when shot down, and was also awarded four silver stars; and,

Whereas, Charlie married Jacke Gibson on December 4, 1979, and he is the father of two children, Laine and Mike, who have blessed them with four grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Charlie retired as a colonel from the U.S. Air Force in 1981, moved to Rapid City in 1990, owns and operates Summers Aero Services, and is currently the FAA's designated flight examiner for western South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Charlie was the chief pilot for the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology's weather research T-28 aircraft for 10 years and is the only pilot to fly it through a supercell thunderstorm with a tornado occurring at the same time; has written articles on flying safety for the FFA and civilian flying magazines; speaks at aviation safety conferences on the dangers of flying near thunderstorms; established a soaring club for glider pilots in the Black Hills; and has logged over 14,000 hours of flight time in various forms of aircraft; and,

Whereas, Charlie will observe his 70th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 21, 2005, as

CHARLIE SUMMERS DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all his many friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Michael Rounds".

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Chris Nelson".

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State